

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7947

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KHAMA ADDRESSES SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES BEFORE PARTY
CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA MADE A MAJOR POLICY
ADDRESS BEFORE THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE BOTSWANA
DEMOCRATIC PARTY ON APRIL 16, 1976 AT SELEBI-PIKWE. ADDRESS
COVERED MAJOR ISSUES BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN FACING BOTSWANA.
IN THE AREAS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HE LIMITED HIMSELF TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN

ISSUES, IN PARTICULAR, RHODESIA, NOTING THAT THE BREAKDOWN OF TALKS
HAS CREATED A DANGEROUS SITUATION IN WHICH ARMED CONFLICT IS POSSIBLE

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LEADING TO INCREASED DANGER FOR THE WHITE MINORITY IN THE

COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A REGULAR MAJOR POLICY ADDRESS, PRESIDENT OF BOTSWANA SIR SERETSE KHAMA OPENED THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY ON APRIL 16, 1976. KHAMA'S ADDRESS INCLUDED DISCUSSION OF BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN ISSUES. IN DISCUSSING FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, HE LIMITED HIMSELF THIS YEAR TO SOUTHERN AFRICA DISCUSSING SEPARATELY ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA.

3. ZIMBABWE: WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA, KHAMA STATED THAT THE BREAKDOWN OF TALKS BETWEEN SMITH AND NKOMO HAS CAUSED THE SITUATION TO TAKE A "DANGEROUS TURN". HE NOTED THAT EFFORTS HAD BEEN MADE TO HELP THE WHITE COMMUNITY IN ZIMBABWE REALIZE THAT THEIR DESTINY THERE CAN BE SECURE ONLY IF THEY RECOGNIZE AND ACCEPT THE "LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF THE BLACK MAJORITY". HE SAID THAT "THE ACCEPTANCE OF MAJORITY RULE DOES NOT MEAN ACCEPTANCE OF DOMINATION OR OPPRESSION OF THE MINORITY BY THE MAJORITY. ALL IT MEANS IS THAT THE MAJORITY IN HARMONIOUS COOPERATION WITH THE MINORITY DECIDED THEIR COMMON DESTINY FOR THEIR COMMON GOOD.". HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE OUTRIGHT REJECTION OF MAJORITY RULE BY THE WHITE COMMUNITY IN ZIMBABWE IS "SUICIDAL".

4. MOZAMBIQUE: KHAMA PAID TIRIBUTE TO THE "COURGEOUS STAND OF THE PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE" HONORING THE CLUSURE OF THE BORDER AS AN ACT OF "SELF-DENIAL PRECIPITATED BY UNPROVOKED BOMBING RAID SCARRIED OUT BY THE SMITH REGIME". COMMENT: THIS TIBUTE TO MOZAMBIQUE COUCHED IN TERSM OF A RESPONSE TO A HOSTILE ACT MAY BE INTENDED TO DRAW DISTINCTION BETWEEN MOZAMBIQUE AND BOTSWANA, JUSTIFYING BOTSWANA'S POLICY OF KEEPING ITS BORDER OPEN.

5. NAMIBIA: TURNING HIS ATTENTION TO NAMIBIA, PRESIDENT KAHAMA ACCUSED SOUTH AFRICA OF NOT ONLY REFUSING TO ALLOW THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE TO DECIDE THEIR FUTURE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE AND FREEDOM BUT ALSO OF USING THAT "INTERNATIONAL TERRITORY" AS A BASE FOR "ACTS OF AGRESSION AGAINST THE INDEPENDENET STATE OF ANGOLA." KAHAMA SAID HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WHEN THEY SAY THEY WILL BE READY TO LEAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NAMIBIA AS SOON AS THE PEOPLE HAVE DECIDED THE FUTURE OF THEIR COUNTRY. KHAMA SAID HE DID NOT REGAARD THESE "SO-CALLED CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS" AS GENUINE AND DOES NOT REGARD THE OUTCOME OF THESE DISCUSSIONS AS "HAVING ANY LEGAL FORCE."

6. SOUTH AFRICA: WITH REGARD TO SOUTH AFRICA, PRESIDENT KAHAMA CONTINUED THE ATTACK ON THE BANTUSTANS POLICY NOTING THAT "THERE IS NOTHING CHARITABLE ABOUT THE CREATION OF IM-

POVERISHED BANTUSTANS". HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE FUTURE OF SOUTH AFRICA "LIES IN BALKANISATION OR IN INSTITUTIONALISED APARTHEID IN THE FORM OF SO-CALLED INDEPENDENT BANTUSTANS."

7. ALSO WITH REGARD TO SOUTH AFRICA, PRESIDENT KAHAM DREW ATTENTION TO THE LEGISLATION WHICH EXTENDED SOUTH AFRICA'S MILITARY FRONTIER TO THE EQUATOR. KHAMA ASSERTED THAT AS A RESULT OF THIS "ARROGANT LEGISLATION THERE IS A REAL DANGER THAT ANY COUNTRY INCLUDING OUR OWN COULD BECOME A SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY OPERATIONAL ZONE ONCE THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE INTENSIFIED." HE ACCUSED SOUTH AFRICAN OF NO LONGER PRETENDING TO RESPECT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF OTHER STATES AND NOTED THAT THIS ACTION ADDS A "NEW SERIOUS DIMENSION" TO BOTSWANA'S "INSECURITY."

8. IN ADDITION TO PARTY MEMBERS, ADDRESS WAS ATTENDED BY THE AMBASSADOR AND OTHER REPS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, INCLUDING THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA, ZAMBIA, AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

9. TEXT WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM
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